<u>Listing of Claims</u>

Claims 1-17 (canceled)

Claim 18 (new) A communication system comprising

a local network having a first communication device thereon,

a plurality of second communication devices external to said local network and connectable through a public network, said local network including access blocking apparatus that connects the local network to external networks and that separates said first and second communication devices,

a secure hub, said secure hub including

interfaces connecting said secure hub to the public network;

means in response to the first communication device for establishing a virtual pipe between the first communication device and said secure hub;

a pool of available IP addresses from which an IP address can be assigned to the first communication device; and

means for associating the assigned IP address with the established virtual pipe, whereby the IP address gives the first communication device an appearance on the local network;

means for routing communications from any of the second communication devices and addressed to the first communication device to the established virtual pipe; and

means for tunneling said communications over the established virtual pipe to the first communication device thereby bypassing the access blocking apparatus.

Claim 19 (new) A communication system comprising

a local network having a first communication device thereon, said first communication device having a primary IP address,

a plurality of second communication devices that are external to the local network and connectable through a public network,

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security access blocking apparatus that provides the first communication device access to the public network and separates the first and second communication devices, and

a secure hub including routing and switching functionalities, interfaces to the public network, means in response to the first communication device for establishing a virtual pipe between said secure hub and the first communication device for tunneling communication and bypassing said security access blocking apparatus, and means for assigning a secondary IP address to said first communication device and associating said secondary IP address with said established virtual pipe, whereby said secondary IP address gives said first communication device a second appearance on said local network.

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